



Section 1115 Waiver Task Force  
June 22, 2015 – 1:00pm – 3:00pm  
Meeting Notes

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Task Force Community Chairman, Senator Tom Izzo thanked the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) for hosting this meeting, and for everyone coming out on a summer day. He noted that the Task Force is continuing to evolve and more changes are likely on the way.

**II. Status of the Waiver Proposals submitted to CMS**

Senator Izzo explained that due to unforeseen scheduling changes, our presenter on this item was currently unavailable and the topic will be revisited overall at our next session. Please feel free to send questions to Lauren Lapolla ([lauren.lapolla@ohhs.ri.gov](mailto:lauren.lapolla@ohhs.ri.gov)) who will work with Ann Martino to get responses to your questions.

**III. Update on the Budget – Impact on EOHHS: Matt Harvey**

The Reinventing Medicaid work has been ongoing for some time now. There have now been at least four different versions of FY16 budget recommendations since the process began: The report with listed recommendations made by the Working Group to Reinvent Medicaid; the budget amendment as modified and presented by the Governor; the budget amendment modified and passed by the House Finance Committee; and finally the budget as modified and passed by the General Assembly. The bottom line: there were several modifications made to the Governor's budget, but we are hopeful everything will be included.

The main Medicaid reform initiatives to date are as follows:

- a. The rate reduction to nursing homes was reduced from 2.5% to 2.0%. There had been a proposal to increase the provider assessment on nursing homes, though this was eliminated.
- b. The Governor's proposal removed funding for the Graduate Medical Education (GME) program entirely; however, the House chose instead to increase funding for GME.
- c. The Governor's proposal included amendments to estate recovery and the transfer of assets rules, which were not enacted. Alternatively, the state funded two additional FTE positions to work in state recovery units.
- d. The Governor's proposed budget article included proposed language on mandatory managed care, which was removed by the House. The budget article also included language on alternate payment methodologies, which the House amended to include

persons who are dually Medicare and Medicaid eligible. The implications of these amendments are under review.

The work of Reinventing Medicaid is now turning to developing work plans for each of our many initiatives. Many of these initiatives require federal authority. The Working Group is now completing the second half of its charge of proposing a long-term vision for the Medicaid program. Their final report is currently scheduled to be released at the last group meeting on July 8, 2015.

**This week we have two meetings:** Wednesday morning, June 24, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. will be the last of our optional morning Working Sessions at EOHHS in the West Wing Conference Room, which will focus on quality and measurements specifically around Medicaid.

The second meeting this week is on that same Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the Providence Marriott. This is our penultimate Working Group meeting, and will be a facilitated discussion by Deloitte regarding future principles and goals of the Medicaid Program.

**Questions:**

- i. **Q:** Are there any plans to bring the draft plan to the public for input before the committee finalizes it?

**A:** We will circulate drafts to the Working Group and to the public, as time permits. Best attempts will be made to share a draft of the report with interested parties for comment prior to final dissemination. Public comment from phase 1 that was not incorporated into the first report, should be integrated into the second report.

- ii. **Q:** What are the numbers in the budget?

**A:** The original target of the Reinventing Medicaid report was a \$93 million dollar savings. The House-passed final number is now approximately \$67 million on the expenditure side (state-only funds).

- iii. **Q:** Last week, DCYF representatives indicated that system of care changes related to children's mental health services were on hold. Are there any updates available on this issue at this time?

**A:** I am not aware of anything specific in a Medicaid budget article. The only significant agency budget change was at BHDDH (increase in developmental disability funds).

**Senator Izzo:** We can reach out to DCYF to present an update at our next meeting.

#### IV. **Children's Cabinet**

**Quick update on this from Deputy Secretary Jennifer Wood:** Amendments to the Children's Cabinet authorizing statute were submitted as part of EOHHS' legislative package. In accordance with statutory changes, this group will be re-convened in the next few weeks. The expectation is that the inaugural meeting of the Children's Cabinet will be sometime in July.. There is enthusiasm for the work of the Children's Cabinet, specifically, their coordinating efforts related to advocacy for children across multiple agencies. EOHHS is also now seeking nominations for the group, as the old appointments have long since expired.

Notes prepared and respectfully submitted by:

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